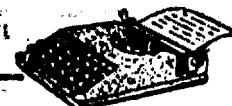


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WASHINGTON LETTER



Washington News Bureau
1293 National Press Building

To the Readers of The Christian Science Monitor:

Britain rates high at the White House these days. Like Washington, the British Government is willing to discuss the Berlin crisis with the Soviets, while France and West Germany hold aloof.

Britain has been slow in contributing to the necessary North Atlantic Treaty Organization military build-up, but "at least we know where we stand with the British," an official sums up.

With West Germany, understandably uncertain until the postelection Bonn government is firmed up, Washington has had difficulty ascertaining just what German policy is toward the Oder-Neisse frontier, toward dealings with East Germany.

Germans are worried that any slightest negotiable point considered by Washington means deep concessions, even the disarming of West Germany. The United States would never agree to disarming a major NATO partner.

Washington is only prepared to contemplate a "freezing" of NATO nuclear armament in its present condition: With United States missiles on German soil but the United States fully controlling the nuclear warheads.

EISENHOWER BACK IN GOP SADDLE

United States politics undergo subtle changes. General Eisenhower emerges as chief spokesman of the GOP replacing "liberal

leader" Richard M. Nixon, running for Governor of California, and Mr. Nixon's immediate problems mount.

To emphasize that he isn't interested in the 1964 presidential race but means to serve out a term as Governor if elected, friends leaked the alleged Nixon opinion that President Kennedy would be re-elected in 1964 anyway. This satisfied one GOP group but irritated another and Mr. Nixon issued a qualifying statement.

Most observers think the GOP will make gains in 1962, maybe big gains if the "X" factor of congressional reapportionment is favorable. Republican leaders meet here this week to make plans to capture big cities, now admitted to be their basic problem.

More intensive organization is one answer. Difficulty is that the conservative GOP-Southern coalition votes on social welfare, school aid, and similar measures alienate city masses.

CONFLICTING REPORTS FROM ASIA

A major problem confronting President Kennedy in formulating policy for Southeast Asia: The diametrically opposing "intelligence estimates" emanating from that region.

Some military intelligence reports have said the Communist advance into South Viet Nam is deadly serious and that a Dien Bien Phu debacle is a likely result of the new battalion-strength attacks stemming from North Viet Nam. Other

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